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WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1934

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

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Editorials

Dr. Wirt's Brainstorm

Dr. William A. Wirt, Gary, Ind., educator, got into the limelight of publicity by claiming that he had discovered a plot on the part of certain government officials and others to overthrow the form of government or social order of the United States. In his statement before the special committee of the House of Representatives appointed to investigate the charge, Dr. Wirt revealed that the "plot" consisted of the advocacy of national economic planning, and that the main "plotter" was Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Tugwell, who for some time has sponsored economic planning as a means to restore prosperity to the farmers in particular and to the people generally.

Economic planning itself is not new. The new demand is the purpose of economic planning. In the past, and to a large extent in the present, economic "planning" has been the monopoly of capitalists, bankers and large investors with unlimited profits for those who own and control industry as its sole object. The logical result of this "planning" was the depression which began in 1929 and which produced an unemployed army running from 3,216,000 in January, 1930, to 13,689,000 in March, 1933, and now standing at about 11,000,000. In addition, the old "planning" ruined thousands of banks, millions of homes, and destroyed our entire economic and social order to the verge of chaos.

The new economic planning is designed to use our immense capacities for the production of wealth for the real benefit of the people, who do most of the useful work in both production and distribution.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has previously envisioned this idea. In the annual convention of the Federation, after stating that the "fundamental difficulty" with our economic system is the lack of equal share in the things which make up the welfare of our people, the Council said:

"With coordinated planning we may endeavor to make the things people want, assure distribution by plan, and so enjoy the benefits of social progress."

Economic planning, national in scope, designed to secure prosperity for the masses of the people, is the underlying purpose of the New Deal. It is the underlying purpose of the National Industrial Recovery Act. Moreover, it is in thorough accord with the Constitution of the United States, which confers upon Congress the power "to promote the general welfare."

Of course using the Constitution and the power of Congress to promote the interests of the masses of the people arouses the opposition of those subversive groups who have hitherto used the Government to advance the interests of the privileged few. It is quite natural that they should see in economic planning for the public interest a direct assault on the form of Government as they and their courts have shaped it. But real economic planning for the welfare of the people, instead of overthrowing the form of Government outlined in the Constitution, will make it the servant of the people, and that is what it should be.

Victims of Usury

Startling revelations of the victimizing of poor people by small loan companies came to the surface in the hearing held by the District of Columbia Committee of the United States Senate in Washington on the usury bill sponsored by Senator Charles McNary.

William A. Roberts, corporation counsel for the District, advocating fixed legal rate of interest at eight per cent annum with authorization for additional charges, strictly limited by law, for investigation, commissions and other things, the borrower being held responsible for the provision that even these charges must be reasonable with the burden of proof on the lender.

Agents of the small loan companies demanded a much higher rate than that approved by the District's council.

In the course of the hearing an attorney representing certain victims of usurious lenders gave a number of cases of borrowers who were penalized by monstrous charges when compelled by circumstances to default.

He cited a case of a railroad fireman who had borrowed \$25, signing a note for \$50, of which \$10 was due in 10 days and \$15 due in 20 days. He noted that he had been sold and he ultimately had to pay \$62.50. A loan of \$15 cost him another borrower \$100, he said. A newspaper editor who had borrowed \$100 at 15 per cent interest and had to pay \$154 a month after he had borrowed.

Another witness testified that a "Wall Street combination" owns most of the small loan companies, and that the banks are financing these companies in the drive for higher interest rates.

It is a fundamental criticism of our money loaning system that the poor, who are least able to pay usurious rates for loans to tide them over periods of necessity, are the very ones who are victimized by the money lenders, the banks and railroads it might be had plan to consider the advisability of subsidizing interest charges the poor.

MRS. ROSA 'N' KAY DIES; WAS ARIZONA'S FRIEND OF LABOR

Secured Enactment of Minimum Wage Law and Fought Deportation of Biache Miners

Phoenix, Ariz.—Organized labor throughout Arizona and the nation suffered a distinct loss in the death here of Mrs. Rosa McKay, whose record as a progressive thinker and liberal legislator reached beyond the State.

She served a number of years in the State Legislature, she introduced and pushed to enactment a minimum wage law for women and girls which fixed \$15 weekly as the minimum rate, and which could impose on female workers. Later she succeeded in getting the minimum raised to \$16. A bit later she fought, with only minor success, the law unconstitutional.

In commenting on her latest loss, the Arizona Labor Journal said: "Mrs. McKay added to the excitement during the notorious Biache deportation by openly championing the cause of the deportees in the face of the powers which sided and tentatively sided with the camp through high-handed, autocratic and illegal methods. It was she who caused the first wave of the anti-Biache movement to surge over the border into the United States."

U. S. Government Will Aid In Making Silk Wage Survey

Patterson, N. J.—Announcement was made here by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Commerce that it would send a survey team to the silk centers of Pennsylvania and New England.

Surveys, according to the strike act,

Jobless Millions and Low Wages Cause Nation's Ills, Green Says

A. F. L. President Tells Women's Trade Union League, at Dinner in Honor of Mrs. Roosevelt, That Higher Wages, Shorter Hours to Provide Work for Jobless, and Equitable Wealth Distribution Are Necessary to Secure and Maintain Prosperity.

New York—Wide diffusion of wealth and equitable distribution of the earnings of industry by means of higher wages and the shorter work week to provide jobs for the millions of unemployed, all of which are the basic principles of the organized labor movement, are the inseparable elements necessary to secure and maintain progress and prosperity, declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address at a dinner here given by the New York Women's Trade Union League in honor of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Green said in part: "I esteem it a rare privilege and a great pleasure to be permitted to share with those present the pleasures of this occasion."

"I am happy to be here and to join with the New York Women's Trade Union League in paying a tribute to Mrs. Roosevelt, your honored guest, the National Women's Trade Union League, and particularly the New York branch of this splendid organization, which has been so successful in its efforts to secure for women workers in manufacturing and mercantile establishments and those noble women outside of wage-earning who are interested in the promotion of social justice and human welfare. In this respect the National Women's Trade Union League is unique in character."

Praises Trade Union League

"It is gratifying to me that through all the years since the formation of the National Women's Trade Union League all groups associated with it, whether wage earners or representatives of consumer organizations or those who, though attracted in more fortunate circumstances, have been moved by a desire to render public service, stand united in a fixed determination to defend the public interest, the advancement and promotion of the economic and social welfare of working women."

"This organization has rendered most valuable service in many cities, particularly in New York. The support which it has given to the National League makes up a distinguished list of women who take their place among the leaders of the Nation, enabled the New York branch to render service and leadership to the women of this city, and to the Nation as a whole."

Poverty in Midst of Wealth

"The basis of the fine cooperation which has been maintained between the groups associated with the National Women's Trade Union League is found in the fact that all are agreed that the prosperity of the Nation depends upon the maintenance of a sound economic policy. This trade union philosophy which was espoused in the early days of the movement has been first formed, has been accepted more widely with the passing years, and the more we have been passing through an industrial revolution, the more we have learned that a balance must be established and maintained between production and consumption."

Enforcement of Codes Is Pleaded by Straus

New York—Compliance Director Heller of the Federal Trade Commission, today urged the House of Representatives to pass the National Labor Relations Act, which would enforce the codes of fair competition established by the Federal Trade Commission.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Nathan Straus, Jr., State Director of the National Employment Council, brought joy to members of the code authority at a luncheon here when he told them in his first official address publicly by his major instrument for securing compliance with the code of fair competition established by the Federal Trade Commission.

The code of fair competition established by the Federal Trade Commission is a code of fair competition established by the Federal Trade Commission. It is a code of fair competition established by the Federal Trade Commission.

Spanish Strike Closes Firestone Tire Factory

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—The strike on the Brazilian-owned Firestone Tire Factory here to close its plant indefinitely after 200 workers had been ordered to leave the plant by the Brazilian Government.

Marvill Barberies Win Three Shops for Union

Marvill, N. J.—The more Marvill barber shops have signed agreements to recognize the Journeymen Barber Association, the more the future will employ only union barbers.

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Shipyard Strikers Reject 6 PER CENT PAY INCREASE

Camden, N. J.—An offer of 6 per cent pay increase by the New York Shipbuilding Co. was refused by representatives of the 3,000 striking employees.

Code Chisellers Compelled To Pay \$20,000 Back Wages

New York—Every employee of every company in New York State operating in the garment industry who has been receiving code wages was urged by the National Employment Council, to file complaints with the State Labor Department.

8,000 HOSIERY WORKERS STRIKE FOR HIGHER PAY

Indianapolis, Ind.—Employees of three Indianapolis hosiery mills struck for a 17 per cent pay raise and a "seniority and penalty system." Approximately 8,000 workers are affected, strikers said.

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PHONE INDUSTRY ABUSES ARE SCORED BY SPLAWN

L. C. C. Member Urges Federal Control of Communications Systems—A. T. and T., Which Pays Its President \$212,000 Salary and Imposes Company Union Scheme on Its Employees, Called "More Powerful and Skilled" Than Any State Government.

New York—The holding company has proved an "outlet of abuse" in the communications industry as in the power industry, declared Dr. Walter M. Splawn, a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in a recommendation to the House Interstate Commerce Committee that telephone and telegraph companies be subjected to strict control by the Federal Government.

"It is clearly evident that no bill has been introduced in the Congress of the United States since the establishment of the Interstate Commerce Commission which has brought the opposition of many communications holding companies, chambers of commerce, large corporations and their paid representatives to the same extent as has the introduction of the Wagner-Connery bill," Dr. Splawn declared.

"This bill provides that employees shall have the right to organize and join labor unions, and that they shall be permitted to bargain collectively for the purpose of collective bargaining."

"It is also stipulated that it will be regarded as an unfair labor practice for any employer to discriminate against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin."

"This bill also provides that any employee who is a member of a labor union shall be entitled to the same wages and benefits as any other employee of the same employer."

"Company Union Menace

"It also provides for the establishment of a National Labor Board for the settlement of industrial disputes between labor and management."

LABOR UNIONS PLAN ANTI-HITLER POLICY

Reactionary Ordinances Deprive Citizens of Constitutional Rights and Handicap Trade Union Organization Work.

Oakland, Calif.—The Central Labor Council of Alameda County is increased the action of the County Board of Supervisors in passing a drastic anti-picketing ordinance and doubly increased because the measure was stippled with conditions which would handicap the trade union movement or the public generally.

"Section 1 of the ordinance makes it unlawful for a person to stand on the sidewalk or in any other public place and obstruct the free passage of traffic or annoy or molest persons passing along the sidewalk."

"Section 2 makes it unlawful to stand on the sidewalk or in any other public place and obstruct the free passage of traffic or annoy or molest persons passing along the sidewalk."

"Section 3 provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to take part in a public demonstration or any other unlawful act or to obstruct the free passage of traffic or annoy or molest persons passing along the sidewalk."

"Section 4 provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to take part in a public demonstration or any other unlawful act or to obstruct the free passage of traffic or annoy or molest persons passing along the sidewalk."

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Green Gives Labor's Full Support To Wagner-Connery Disputes Bill

Declares Antitrust Manufacturers Have Organized Concerted Drive on Congress to Kill the Measure—Recommends Its Prompt Enactment, Without Objectionable Amendments.

Washington—Pointing out that organized antitrust employers and their friends are using the radio, newspaper advertisements, public speakers and appeals to Members of Congress to bring about the defeat of the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill, now under consideration by the Senate and House Labor Committees, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared that the prompt enactment of the measure, without objectionable amendments, is necessary to secure for the workers the right to organize independent unions and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choice, as provided for in Section 7 of the National Recovery Act.

Pierce Opposition

"Because the opponents of this bill intend principally manufacturers of three classes, employers organizations of all kinds, their paid representatives, and corporations established in many industries, it is necessary for us to counteract their efforts by every means possible in order to bring about the passage of the Wagner-Connery Bill at this time."

"This is no ordinary contest; it is a struggle for the right to organize and bargain collectively for the purpose of collective bargaining. It is a struggle for the right to organize and bargain collectively for the purpose of collective bargaining."

"It is also stipulated that it will be regarded as an unfair labor practice for any employer to discriminate against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin."

"This bill also provides that any employee who is a member of a labor union shall be entitled to the same wages and benefits as any other employee of the same employer."

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LABOR UNIONS CONDEMN ANTI-PICKETING LAW

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